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by the Institute, he made mention of the American Academy in Rome, the founding of a National Academy in America, the development of our National Capital City, the advancement of civic improvement, in all parts of the country, the conservation of our natural resources, urging, in conclusion, that the Institute always take "a large and generous view of every subject" and that the conduct of its affairs be with wisdom and foresight, along broad national lines.

The last day of the convention was given over to the consideration of the relation of railways to national and municipal development, papers being read and addresses made by prominent officials and experts, some of which were of much practical value. The subject, as presented, had, in fact, a two-fold interest, emphasizing the increasing interrelation if not interdependence of architecture and engineering, and the co-relation of construction and service. It was agreed that the next convention should be held at some city on the Pacific coast, and the following officers for the ensuing year were unanimously elected: President, Irving K. Pond; first vice-president, Walter Cook; second vice-president, Edgar V. Seeler; secretary and treasurer, Glenn Brown; directors, Cass Gilbert, New York; Ralph Adams Cram, Boston; and John Galen Howard, San Francisco.

**THE MCKIM
MEMORIAL
MEETING AT
WASHINGTON**

The special feature of the American Institute of Architects' annual convention was the memorial meeting to Charles Follen McKim, held in the Corcoran Gallery of Art, on the evening of December 15th, when addresses in appreciation of the great architect's noble achievements and character were made by the President of the United States, Senator Root, and Mr. Choate. In many respects it was a notable occasion, many distinguished persons being in attendance and much that was inspiring being brought to remembrance, yet, withal, the note of sadness and present loss dominated. But for the knowledge that Mr. McKim had been informed before his

death of the intention of the Institute to bestow upon him its medal of honor, there would have been an utter emptiness in the distinction conferred. But the fact that his presence had been anticipated in itself lent pathos. To an extent this meeting was an echo of the meeting held in New York a few weeks earlier, with this difference, that in Washington chief emphasis was laid upon Mr. McKim's connection with the origin and development of the Park Commission's Plan for the future beautifying of the National Capital. As the adoption and utilization of this plan was a matter of very real, though impersonal concern, to Mr. McKim it was perhaps peculiarly fitting that at this meeting utterances should have been made which seem to foreshadow such a consummation, both the President and Senator Root expressing in unequivocal terms confidence that it would be carried out. "As surely," said the latter, "as the sun will rise tomorrow."

**NATIONAL
ACADEMY OF
ARTS AND
LETTERS**

The first public meeting of the National Academy of Arts and Letters, an organization on the lines of the French Academy, established five years ago by the National Institute, was held at Washington, D. C., the same week that the American Institute of Architects was in convention. Two public sessions were held, both at Continental Hall, one on Tuesday afternoon and the other on Thursday morning. On Wednesday the members attended as a body the memorial meeting to Charles F. McKim, who was one of their number. The opening address was made by Mr. William Dean Howells, the president, and poems by the late Richard Watson Gilder and Mrs. Julia Ward Howe were read by Mr. Robert Underwood Johnson, the permanent secretary. At the first session Mr. Thomas Hastings read a paper on Architecture and Mr. E. H. Blashfield one on Painting, each tracing the development of the art in America and recording present tendencies. The proceedings of the meeting will be published in book form in the early spring.